

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 148

By Finney L

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of John Carthel Nowell, Jr.,
of Trenton.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of John Carthel Nowell, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Nowell was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, a native of Trenton, Mr. Nowell was a highly respected member of his community, earning recognition as a prominent attorney, civic leader, and businessman; and

WHEREAS, born December 28, 1920, John Nowell, Jr., was the son of the late Ida Johnson Nowell and John Carthel Nowell, Sr.; he attended Peabody High School until he received a scholarship to Riverside Military Academy, from which he graduated in 1939; and

WHEREAS, following high school, Mr. Nowell enrolled at the University of Missouri, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism and a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration; he enjoyed the university's social life as a member of the Phi Delta Gamma fraternity; and

WHEREAS, during his college years, Mr. Nowell also served in the Reserve Officers' Training Corps and, when he graduated in 1943, he was fully prepared to answer his country's call to service as a member of the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Field/Coastal Artillery, John Nowell completed the Artillery Officer Basic Course at Fort Sill, Oklahoma; from there, he went on to join the 84th Infantry Division during its training at Camp Claiborne, Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Nowell rendered sterling service with the 84th through its deployment to Europe, where the division saw combat in the Ardennes, Central Europe, and Rhineland Campaigns; and

WHEREAS, he served as a Field Artillery Unit Commander, an Operations Officer, an Aide de Camp, and a Liaison Officer to the British Field Forces in combat; and

WHEREAS, John Nowell received numerous combat decorations for his World War II service: the Bronze Star Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the American Campaign Medal, the European, African, and Middle East Campaign Medal, the World War Two Victory Medal, and the Army of Occupation Medal, which he received for his service in Germany in the aftermath of the war; and

WHEREAS, after his return to the United States, Mr. Nowell became an entrepreneur, working at various endeavors, including co-founding the New York Riding Academy in Manhattan; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Nowell was eventually drawn to study law, attending Rutgers University and the Vanderbilt School of Law, from which he earned his Juris Doctor degree in 1953; and

WHEREAS, once his studies in Nashville were complete, John Nowell returned to his hometown of Trenton to practice law and attend to his family's business concerns; he opened a law office with his brother-in-law, Limmie Lee Harrell, Sr., and assumed the management of North Fork Farms and Greenhouses as well as a number of rental properties; and

WHEREAS, a dedicated Democrat, Mr. Nowell became deeply involved in state and national politics; he managed the campaign of fellow Tennessean Estes Kefauver in his 1956 bid for the Democratic presidential nomination and from 1963 to 1966, he served as the Representative for Gibson County in the 83rd and 84th Tennessee General Assemblies; and

WHEREAS, in 1968, Mr. Nowell traveled to Chicago as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention; and

WHEREAS, a civic leader in his native Gibson County, John Nowell oversaw the construction of the Gibson County Public Library and served as the Founding President of its Board of Trustees; and

WHEREAS, he served as either Director or Trustee on the Boards of Gibson County General Hospital, Harlan Morris Retirement Home, and the Bank of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Nowell was an active member of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Gibson County Rotarians, and the Gideons; he also served as Exalted Ruler of the Elks Lodge in Trenton; and

WHEREAS, John Nowell was an active and devout member of the First Baptist Church in Trenton, which he served faithfully for many years as a teacher in the Rice Adams Sunday School Class; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Nowell was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, he enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife of fifty-three years, Charlotte Somervill Dickinson Nowell, who survives him; and

WHEREAS, he will be sorely missed by his sons and daughter-in-law, John D. Nowell and Tom and Beth Nowell, and his grandchildren, Carl Nowell and Anna Nowell; and

WHEREAS, John Nowell leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of John Carthel Nowell, Jr., reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Nowell.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.